

What boaters should know about the **NO DISCHARGE ZONE**

in New Hanover County, North Carolina

What is a No Discharge Zone?

A No Discharge Zone (NDZ) designation prohibits discharging sewage into coastal waters. This includes chemically treated sewage from Marine Sanitation Devices, but does not apply to gray water from showers or sinks, and does not prohibit the use of "porta-potties" that do not discharge waste. Through-hull fittings for disposal of sewage are required to be closed and appropriate methods to dispose of sewage implemented.

Who is affected?

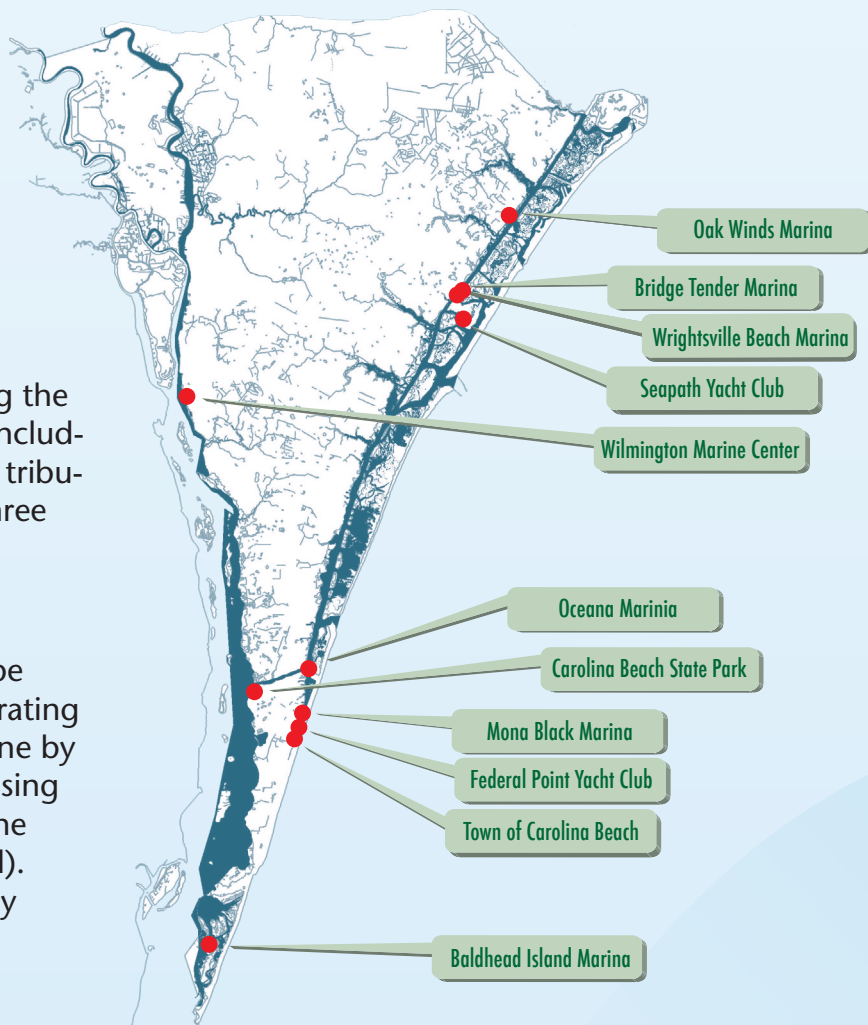
The No Discharge Zone applies to all commercial and pleasure vessels operating in the waterways of New Hanover County, N.C.

Where is the NDZ in New Hanover County?

The No Discharge Zone is in effect along the entire length of New Hanover County, including the Intracoastal Waterway, all inlets, tributaries and tidal creeks, and extending three miles into the Atlantic Ocean.

How can boaters comply?

MSDs Type I, Type II and Type III must be secured to prevent discharge when operating in a No Discharge Zone. This can be done by closing the seacock and padlocking it, using a non-releasable wire tie, or removing the seacock handle (with the seacock closed). Type I and Type II can also be secured by locking the toilet door handle.



Boaters must use sewage pumpout facilities to empty MSDs. These facilities are available at marinas throughout coastal New Hanover County (see map above). Some may charge a fee.



The Clean Marina program identifies those marinas that have taken extra steps to help safeguard the environment and ensure the cleanliness of area waterways

Look for this sign to locate marinas that have pumpout facilities.



N.C. Requirements

Any owner or operator of a vessel that has a Marine Sanitation Device (MSD) shall maintain a record of each pumpout of the MSD and the location of the pumpout facility. Records must be maintained for one year after the pumpout date. A simple log to track pumpouts is available at the N.C. Division of Coastal Management's website at www.nccoastalmanagement.net/marinas/xxx.htm. Marinas are also required to keep records of pumpouts and may ask to see the vessel's records.

Penalties

Under U.S. Coast Guard penalty guidelines, failure to secure a MSD prior to operating a vessel in an NDZ (area where the discharge of sewage is prohibited) can result in penalties of:

- \$375 for the first offense
- \$1,125 for the second offense
- \$2,200 for the third/each additional offense

Additional North Carolina civil penalties of up to \$10,000 per day may also be assessed.

Enforcing Agencies

The following law enforcement agencies are authorized to enforce the rules and regulations pertaining to the No Discharge Zone:

- U.S. Coast Guard
- N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission
- N.C. Marine Patrol
- Any local law enforcement officer

For more information, contact:

U.S. Coast Guard
(252) 247-4501

N.C. Department of Environment and
Natural Resources Customer Service
(877) 623-6748 (toll free)

New Hanover County Planning
(910) 798-7444

Town of Wrightsville Beach
Stormwater Services
(910) 256-7935

Town of Carolina Beach Harbormaster
(910) 458-2540

